THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (f) While finalising the agreements with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the bulk supply of power from the Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, the States in the Southern Region had expressed reservations on the proposed tariff with particular reference to the capital costs, fuel oil consumption, rate of return and heat rate per unit of energy produced. The States in the Eastern Region (particularly West Bengal) had suggested that the plant load factor may be fixed at 63 per cent in the bulk power supply agreements in respect of Farakka Super Thermal Power Station of the NTPC without regard to the constraints in achieving the same in the Eastern Region. Discussions on these issues were held in December, 1984, February, 1985 and July, 1985. As a result of these discussions, the bulk power supply agreements with the States in the Southern and Eastern Regions have been concluded between March and August, 1985.

Some of the States have also suggested that a uniform tariff, on All India basis, may be adopted for the supply of power from the Super Thermal Power Stations of the NTPC. In order to examine this issue of uniformity of tariff, the Central Government have constituted a Committee in February, 1985 which has held discussions subsequently, *inter-alia*, with Chairmen of some Electricity Boards. This Committee is likely to submit its Report shortly.

Maternity Leave to Women Post and Telegraphs employees

2117. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the directives of the Director General of Post and Telegraphs to his General Managers not to grant maternity leave to women employees who have not changed their names after marriage or have not submitted a marriage certificate alongwith their applications for leave or if the applicant is an unmarried mother;

(b) if so, what is the opinion of Government in this matter;

(c) whether the Employees State Insurance Scheme Act and Maternity Benefit Act of 1961 have provisions for any of the aforesaid aspects; and

(d) if not, whether the DGPT can insist upon either of the same through his order or deny maternity leave to an unmarried mother?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) DG P&T (TELECOM. DEPTT) have not issued directions to its field units not to grant maternity leave to women employees who have not changed their names after marriage or not submitted a marriage certificate alongwith their application. The instructions have however been issued to all the field units under the Department of Telecom, not to grant maternity leave to unmarried female Government servants.

(b) The Government has no opinion in view of (a) above.

(c) The Employees State Insurance Act 1948 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 have no provisions on the aforesaid aspects.

(d) Though it is not mentioned in the Rules that a female Government servant should be married to be entitled for maternity leave, it is obviously implied that she should be married for such entitlement.

Production, import and export of cement

2118. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cement produced, imported and exported during the last three years;